YANKEE SCHOOLS PLEASE LATIN AMERICAN PARENTS

Wealthy Families Now Have Children Here, Deserting Europe.

Sentiment a Factor in Bringing About the Unexpected Change.

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UNCLE SAM is now acting as schoolmaster for a very large delegation of children representing practically all the nations of South and Central America. Scarce a college or preparatory school of any importance in any part of the land but what now has on its rolls one or more young people from Pan-American countries, whereas dozens of these olive-skinned, darked-eyed Latin-Americans are to be found in our public schools. This state of things is in most marked contrast to that which prevailed only a few years ago. Then a student of either sex from the lower half of the continent was a decided rarity even in the largest educational institutions. This new patronage of Uncle Sam's schools by the junior members of the most aristocratic families in the republics to the south of us is much more of a concession than most people imagine. Indeed, the fact that Miss Columbia is acting as schoolma'm for so many children from Central and South America is vastly more significant than that our universities now have many pupils from China, Japan, Korea, and other Oriental countries. The presence of these young men from the Far East simply means that the people of the older civilization have come to admit the superiority of the big Republic in an educational as well as an industrial sense. The entry of the young people from the other republics of the New World, however, constitutes not only an acknowledgment of our progressiveness, but also signals a breaking down of long-standing barriers of conservatism.

Up to a few years ago the sons and daughters of wealthy Pan-American citizens were, with a few exceptions, educated in Europe. At that time Uncle Sam did not cut so big a figure in the world of international affairs as he does at present, and his institutions of learning were proportionately underestimated, whereas the convents abroad afforded all the careful, watchful restrictions which the men of Central and South America are wont to see thrown around the members of the gentler sex. The Spanish-American war marked a sharp turn in the tide of educational affairs in so far as the Pan-Americans were concerned. They came to have a new respect for the big nation to the north, and for its ways of training men and women for the battle of life. To help matters along there has been a growth of direct steamship lines between North and South America, and many communities whose members could formerly reach the United States only via Europe are now carried up the coast in much less time.

A very interesting circumstance is responsible for the preference manifested by numbers of Pan-American lads for the American schools. From time out of mind—even in the days when the Latin-Americans looked upon Europe as the hub of the universe—the pre-eminent superiority of American military and naval schools attracted the young men of Central and South America, and it has been the ambition of many of them to graduate from West Point or Annapolis. Uncle Sam has always been disposed to humor his smaller brothers in the family circle of American republics, and this Government on repeated occasions good-naturedly allowed sons of prominent Latin-American families to enter our military and naval academies, special acts of Congress being passed in most instances expressly for this purpose.

With the doors at the chosen goals thus thrown open, however, one after another of the Pan-American lads found himself unable to keep pace with his American cousins in either studies or athletics. How universal has been this handicap is shown by a glance at the record made by the foreigners who have entered West Point during the past century. Only fourteen boys who were not citizens of the United States have been allowed to enter the famous military school, and of this number only four have graduated, the others having in almost every instance withdrawn, been dismissed, or discharged and had the stigma of "deficient" placed upon their record. Even the few Pan-Americans who did manage to graduate did not make a very creditable showing. Antonio Barrios, son of the famous President of Guatemala graduated in 1888 as the forty-eighth man in a class of forty-nine; Francisco Alcantara, son of a President of Venezuela graduated at the foot of the class of 1897, and Andres Ponte, also a Venezuelan, finished at the foot of the class of 1903.

It may not be readily apparent how this disastrous series of failures made by the sons of South and Central American statesmen and soldiers could have deepened the desire of young citizens of the Latin republics to enter our schools, but it has nevertheless. Every one of the failures at West Point resulted primarily because the cadet had not had the thorough preliminary training of the American public and preparatory schools, and as this fact has gradually become known dozens of boys who hope to one day enter the United States Naval or Military Academy or some one of the American high-grade technical schools are seeking to begin their schooling in this country as early as possible. The effect of the new order of things is already apparent, as, for instance, by the fact that Arthur R. Calvo, son of the Costa Rican statesman who recently withdrew from West Point, was well up in his class at the time he left. To be sure the officials at West Point suggested his withdrawal, but it was solely because of an infraction of the rules, and the young man at the time stood fifty-third in a class of ninety-six members.

South American young men are likewise manifesting a sudden great interest in American instruction in engineering and kindred branches and are thronging to American technical schools in surprising numbers. A case in point is afforded by the students now in this country from Peru. Peru is one of the smallest of the South American countries; has poorer facilities for communication with the United States than many of the other Latin republics; and has in the ancient capital of Lima an aristocracy that is probably more conservative than that in any other city in South America; yet, despite all this, there are now in this country as students at least twenty young men, sons of the wealthiest and most prominent families of the nation. One or two of these lads are at private military academies, but for the most part they are at technical schools, and a number of them are studying electrical engineering.

It was supposed to constitute a record-breaking concession when ambitious English mothers, noting the preference for American girls, manifested by the most desirable matrimonial "catches" in the United Kingdom, began to send their daughters to schools where American methods prevail; but in reality that example of present-day progressiveness was commonplace indeed compared to the significance which attaches to the growing tendency on the part of prominent residents of Central and South America to send their daughters to the United States to be educated.

To understand the risks which are run in sending the fair descendants of the ancient Castilian aristocracy to Miss Columbia's land of freedom for women it is only necessary to take a peep at the life of a high-born woman in the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America. As young girls, they are not allowed to walk upon the streets, to travel, or to visit places of amusement without a chaperon. Even after a senorita has made her debut she does not mingle in the society of men save when under the watchful eyes of a duenna, and is expected to be at all times most reserved in manner. She does not walk when shopping or visiting, and if a family of caste is unable to afford a carriage the woman must perforce remain at home. After marriage this girl is lost to the world. She is shielded from publicity of every sort; she belongs to no women's clubs, and, in short, her sphere of influence is bounded by her home.

ARGENTINE MINISTER'S FAMILY.

DAUGHTERS OF MINISTER QUESADA.

Mere Babies Becoming Clever Linguists at Local Institutes.

Pupils Also Arriving From Oriental and Other Countries.

Until a few years ago the universally accepted plan for the education of a Pan-American beauty involved a thorough course of instruction in the convent schools where she was taught the European languages. The daughters of very wealthy families were sent abroad for a course of finishing studies. Of late, however, there has been manifest a most marked tendency to give to American schools for girls a preference over those abroad. The children of almost every one of the ministers from South and Central American countries now stationed at Washington are at present being educated in this country, and, in several households the family circle includes young relatives who have accompanied an envoy to the United States solely in order to have the advantage of the schools here.

To be sure, the daughters of these households are now as formerly educated in convents, the institutions in Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans being especially favored, but as is well known all America is permeated with an atmosphere of freedom for women, and this is not without influence upon the girls from the other half of the continent. It is manifested in one way by their seeming disinclination to the very early marriages which are the rule in the Latin-American republics. Many of the wives of Spanish-speaking diplomats at Washington were married when mere school girls just out of the convent, but their daughters show a disposition to follow the fashion of the Yankee maidens and there are Pan-American girls in Washington who would doubtless have been married ere this had they remained in their native land.

The younger children of prominent citizens of the Latin Republics are also entering American schools in sufficient numbers to make their presence felt. The little folks in the household of Senor Calvo, the minister from Costa Rica, the children of Senor Quesada, the Cuban minister, and other dark-complexioned youngsters from the southern neighbors of Uncle Sam's domain are now regularly enrolled in American public schools and kindergartens. The minister from the Argentine Republic, Senor Don Martin Garcia Merou is another South American statesman who believes in American schools. When his three daughters, now aged fifteen, thirteen, and eleven years respectively, first came to this country they mastered the English language in less than a year. The minister himself was not quite so apt a pupil, but when he was twitted about it remarked laughingly: "You know great people cannot learn a new language so rapidly as small people." Many of these Pan-American children who have not yet attained the age of ten years speak fluently four languages, and at seven years of age, Aurora, the daughter of the Cuban envoy, could speak and write Spanish, French, and English.

Baby Carriages in March

For some reason not now known there is always a big increase in the demand for baby carriages in March. The increase has already begun, and tradesmen are busy supplying the calls. And this year the made-to-order business in Washington is greater than it has been in a decade. Notwithstanding the thousands of styles to be had at the larger stores the average parent wants something individual, and consequently if he can afford it he had the vehicle made to order. Said a tradesman today:

"I have sold three twin carriages in one day, and then not sold another for three months. So we don't commonly keep them in stock, but make them to order.

"Formerly all twin carriages were made to carry the children one at either end, facing each other; but nowadays twin carriages are made with room to seat the babies side by side at the back.

"This brings the weight all over the rear axle and the higher wheels and closer to the handle of the carriage, where it can be more easily and conveniently handled and managed.

"Triplet baby carriages? In all the time that I have been in business, and that is many years, I have made but three. Triplet carriages are made broader at the back and narrowing toward the front, to carry two children at the back and one, facing, at the front.

"Triplet carriages can, of course, be made graceful and sightly in design, but in the comparatively rare instances of triplets parents oftener use for their three babies two carriages.

"Baby carriages have been made to carry four children, but such carriages are used only in institutions.

"Baby carriages are now made better then ever, and in greater variety, and cheaper and more costly, and with more devices and attachments for the baby's safety and comfort. All baby carriages nowadays, or nearly all, including the cheapest as well as the more costly, have rubber tired wheels, for instance, and the great majority of them are provided with brakes that can be set on the wheels so that the carriage won't roll away if left standing on a grade.

"The go-cart is the latest development of the modern baby carriage, and it has in fact to a very considerable extent supplanted the larger baby carriage. There are baby carriage manufacturers that now make go-carts only.

"Baby carriages are made the year round, but the great demand for them is in the spring, summer, and fall, say from March to October. So the lively trade in them will soon begin."

OF A FAMILY OF WARRIORS

IT WAS remarked a few days ago, in a Washington circle of army officers:

"We have an army of 60,000 men, but they are almost wholly new men; the old soldier element is gone, and we have, in a measure, returned to the conditions following the civil war. But we have in the ranks many good soldiers, the same as we had at the close of the civil war, fit for anything, though not all of the Sunday school type of Christians."

In the higher ranks of the army there are still many officers who have shown themselves heroes in war and in peace, officers who have profited by inheritance and by the strenuous training of war.

In looking over the "Army Register" one will observe the recurrence of family names, fathers and sons or relatives in the same family. Among those whose names do not recur as often as that of Smith—for there are fifty-five of this name—is that of Sumner, a name that has an excellent record, and an interesting fact is that it was an accident that introduced this family in the military history of the country.

Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, whose two sons later became army officers, one of whom is Maj. Gen. S. S. Sumner, in command of the Department of Missouri, was a stage driver among the Berkshire Hills when a young man, and this is how he got into the army: At a time in winter when the roads were dangerously slippery, going down a steep hill the stage slewed and turned over, but the horses kept on. One of the passengers burst open the door on the upper side of the coach and climbed out, and attempted to take the reins from young Sumner's hands. With resentful and determined words Sumner commanded:

"You let the reins alone or I'll throw you off."

The passenger was so taken aback that he abandoned his attempt at interference, and young Sumner guided the team firmly till it was safe to stop them, and so saved passengers and team.

The passenger who attempted to take the reins was Maj. Gen. William T. Worth, afterward one of the heroes of the Mexican War, and he was so impressed with young Sumner's sterling qualities that he interceded for his appointment as a second lieutenant, and Sumner received his commission on March 3, 1819.

Sumner is considered one of the bravest among those who illustrated the discipline and valor of Northern troops on so many battlefields. The chronic wonder of his friends was that he ever came out of battle alive. He would get bullets in his hat, his coat, his boots, his saddle, his horse, sometimes have his person scratched, but always escaped without serious injury. A story told of him with great relish was that in one of the engagements in the Mexican war a bullet which struck him squarely in the forehead fell flattened to the ground without breaking the skin. It was this which won for him the sobriquet of "Old Bull Sumner." At Fair Oaks, when his troops were staggering along under a pitiless storm of bullets, Sumner came galloping along the line, more exposed than any private in the ranks, though they were falling like grass before the mower, and shouted through the smoke: "Steady, men, steady! Don't be excited. When you have been soldiers as long as I you will learn that this is nothing. Stand firm and do your duty!" This was the battle in which General Howard lost his arm, but Sumner was unscathed.

To his youngest son—the present commander of the Department of the Missouri, and then a captain upon his staff—General Sumner was bound by ties of unusual affection. "Sammy" was his constant companion; in private he leaned upon him, caressed him, and consulted him upon the most unimportant matters.

MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL S. SUMNER.

Sphinx No More a Mystery

SCIENTISTS of Washington confirm the reports which have been in circulation recently to the effect that the mystery surrounding the Sphinx has been solved. At the Smithsonian Institution it was said that the stone enigma of the desert is nothing more than a gigantic image of Ra-Harmachis, the god of morning and the conqueror of darkness, hence it faces the east. This discovery was made recently by means of the inscriptions on the walls of a temple which was unearthed by excavators.

Scholars uncovered the foundations of the great statue and have brought to light many interesting features which until recently were unknown. The temple surrounding the base was intended for the worship of Harmachis, and several chambers hewn in the rock were the tombs of kings and priests devoted to his worship. In 1896 there was discovered a stone cap with a sacred asp carved on the forehead, which once covered the head of the Sphinx like a royal helmet, and must have added immensely to its grandeur, particularly if it was gilded, as it is believed it was.

The Sphinx is not an independent structure. The body and head are actually hewn out of the solid rock, but much sandstone masonry was built in to make the outlines perfect and cover defects in the material. This re-enforcement of the original rock is very apparent now to a close observer, but originally they were concealed, for scientists believe that the entire image was once covered with enamel. Indeed, it is possible even now to find fragments still adhering to the surface which resemble porcelain tiles found in tombs and the ruins of the ancient palaces. Several private collectors and some museums have large blocks of most brilliant coloring and artistic design, and from them we can imagine what an imposing spectacle the great statue must have been before the Persians and the Mohammedans destroyed its glory.

While it is still an impressive picture, it has no beauty whatever. The nose, the lips and other features have been mutilated by vandals, among whom the French soldiers under Napoleon are said to have been the most vicious, but the defacement began before the Christian era, when Cambyses invaded Egypt and made it a province of the Persian empire. The expression upon the face of the famous statue is blank. Poets and imaginative people have expended much eloquence in describing lines which do not appear and are purely fanciful, and we have been told again and again that the solemn immobility of its expression is "the ideal of mystery in stone." One writer that I read the other day described it as having "a comeliness not of this world," "a mold of beauty now forgotten—forgotten because Greece drew forth Cytherea from the flashing foam of the Aegan and in her image created new forms of beauty." While this sounds fine, it is preposterous rot.

HEATHEN IDOL FACTORISE

CIVILIZATION supplies not only its own wants, but the peculiar wants of savage and barbarous peoples.

There is a constant flow of gold, or its equivalent, into the coffers of prosaic manufacturing firms from regions inhabited entirely by uncivilized people. Every now and then some new industry is brought to notice which has been going on for years, profitably conducted, and depending on savages and barbarians entirely for customers for its output.

It is well known that nearly all heathendom depends upon Birmingham, England, for its supply of idols; and many a savage shrine in far off recesses of hidden parts of the world, where the white man has never been, has in it a revered idol "made in England," which the natives have obtained from coast people by way of trade.

The machetes, of which we have of late heard so much in connection with Cuba, Central America, and Venezuela, are manufactured in great quantities, in Connecticut. These machetes, which are swords and pruning knives, wood-choppers, and a hundred other things to the natives of Central and South America, can be found in the remotest parts of the Amazon forest all bearing the stamp of a Connecticut firm.

FORGETTING THE BIBLE

THE time seems rapidly passing when writers can use Biblical quotations without identifying marks, says the "Kansas City Star." The day after the municipal election the "New York Evening Post" remarked that "hell was stirred up from beneath last night, in the worst quarters of this city to welcome the Tammany victory." This reference to the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah greatly shocked the "Nebraska Independent," which supposed that the sedate New York newspaper had suddenly become profane. It protested against such "strenuous" writing in a family journal, and the "Evening Post" was forced to reply. "As religious congresses say when they telegraph the President, see Isaiah xiv:9."

There are some quotations which it is possible to use without identifying tags. But their number is diminishing from year to year. If it is remarked that "their chariots drave heavily," people smile at the typographical error. When the writer says that certain partisans would not believe though one rose from the dead, he is by no means sure that his readers will understand the reference. There is much uncertainty in the popular mind as to the source of the quotation, "All that a man hath will he give for his life"—a sentiment which is made in Job, but on the devil's authority.

"SPORT" SCARING WOMEN

"THERE are a number of truckmen and wagon drivers who like to take a run along here in the afternoon, just to give women out shopping a scare," said a policeman who guards the crossing at Eighteenth Street and Sixth Avenue, to a New York reporter. "They will go a block or two out of their way for a run along the department store district, from Fourteenth to Thirty-fourth Street. They are careful not to run into a bunch of women standing on a corner waiting for a car, but they will give them a mighty bad fright, and scatter them so that half of them will miss the car. I have seen drivers cross the street to do this. When the women shriek and drop their packages the young fellows in the wagons consider it a great joke. It is sport to them. What can a policeman do about it? I arrested a driver once when a woman fell almost under the wheels of his wagon. In the police station I was told that I should not have brought him in unless I had seen him knock the woman down, and had witnesses, or unless he was guilty of fast driving. These fellows know enough to keep within the law, and jeer at us if we threaten them."

STILL IN EVIDENCE

"WHEN in doubt, sir, read Shakespeare!" an old Oxford don thundered at a questioning undergraduate. Though, indeed, there may be rare moments when Shakespeare seems too full blooded and meaty for our overpampered tastes, says "Success," in the great minds of the past, the minds that have weathered and survived the tides of change, there is still a sanctuary for the bewildered modern, harassed as he is with well disguised mediocrities, and menaced day by day, as he is, with false ideals. Only too often, nowadays, our old shoddy friend, the dime novel, is our pompous new acquaintance in the full dress suit of gilt top and cloth, demanding of prosperity his dollar and a half where once of youth he asked only his modest dime. So well appareled a gentleman, we humanly enough argue, must surely carry about with him much hidden wealth. Yet disrobe him and all his comrades we cannot; the mere economics of time and attention demand that our bookish friendships be rigidly eclectic. We are lucky to hobnob with one out of a hundred; and even then we run the risk of becoming fictional dyspeptics, or out and out emotional inebriates.